Amendment to Payment of Wages Act

1522. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing to amend the Payment of Wages Act to enable Government to enhance the wage ceiling on the basis of the consumer price index;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed amendment;

(c) whether any consultations have been made with the trade unions in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the consultations?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) The Rajya Sabha has passed the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2004 which mainly provides for increasing the wage ceiling from the existing level of Rs. 1600/- to Rs. 6500/- per month, its further enhancement on the basis of quinquennial Consumer Expenditure Survey of NSSO through notification and increase in penalties, which had also been discussed with all stakeholders.

VRS in Bharat Gold Mines Limited

1523. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers in Bharat Gold Mines Limited, KGF are yet to cover under Voluntary Retirement Scheme;

(b) whether Government have agreed to introduce a new VRS for these remaining workers of BGML;

(c) if so, what would be the cost involved; and

(d) by when, the above new VRS be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) There are 3100 employees in Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) who may opt for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) as and when it is decided to be opened.